

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZURICH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XJ

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO DIGGS CHARGES

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FRED BROWN, AT PRESS BRIEFING SEPT.  
2, RESPONDED TO CONGRESSMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS, WHO HAD  
CRITICIZED SECRETARY FOR FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH CONGRE-  
SSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES.  
DIGGS, AT SEPT. 1 PRESS CONFERENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT CAUCUS,  
OUT OF GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT RAPIDLY DETERIOATING SITUATION  
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DIRECTIONS OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC INITIA-  
TIVES IN AREA, WILL CONVENE BLACK LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON  
U.S. - AFRICA POLICY ON SEPT. 24-25 IN WASHINGTON. PAR-  
TICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE LEADERS OF PRINCIPAL BLACK NATIONAL  
CIVIL RIGHTS, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND  
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOLARS AND OTHER INFORMED  
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INDIVIDUALS. PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO "FORGE CONSENSUS

ON APPROPRIATE U.S. - AFRICAN POLICY."

2. DIGGS SAID CAUCUS OPPOSES FORTHCOMING KISSINGER-VORSTER MEETING UNLESS CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET. HE SAID U.S.

STRATEGY TO BRING MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE

BOUND TO FAIL SINCE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION ARMY AND SWAPO "HAVE NEITHER BEEN INVOLVED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS NOR APPROVE OF THEM." DIGGS SAID CAUCUS DOES NOT KNOW SECRETARY'S "GRAND DESIGN FOR ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA" SINCE SECRETARY HAS NOT "FOUND TIME TO DISCUSS HIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES WITH CAUCUS OR APPARENTLY EVEN WITH HIS TOP AFRICAN SPECIALISTS IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE."

3. DIGGS, IN FIVE-PAGE STATEMENT CLAIMED AFRICAN FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS ARE CRITICIZING KISSINGER INITIATIVES. HE SAID "SOLE PURPOSE OF ZURICH MEETING OUGHT TO BE ARRANGEMENT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE TO ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO DISMANTLING OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND RAPID TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE." SECRETARY, HE SAID, SHOULD MEET WITH WIDEST POSSIBLE SPECTRUM OF SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP, "PARTICULARLY AFRICAN POLITICAL DETAINEES" TO ANNOUNCE END OF ALL U.S.-SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION IN ALL SECTORS UNTIL SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IS ABOLISHED.

4. CORRESPONDENTS, AT SEPT. 1 PRESS BRIEFING, QUERIED SPOKESMAN ABOUT DIGGS ATTACK. SPOKESMAN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO GIVE POINT-BY-POINT COMMENT ON QUESTIONS, BUT EMPHASIZED SECRETARY HAS GONE TO "EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS IN RECENT MONTHS TO MEET WITH BLACK LEADERSHIP AND CERTAINLY TO KEEP CONGRESS INFORMED." AS FOR DIGGS' ASSERTION THAT SECRETARY HAS NOT DISCUSSED HIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES WITH DEPARTMENT'S TOP AFRICAN SPECIALISTS, SPOKESMAN STATED "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELLE AND UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS ARE CERTAINLY TWO OF KEY PEOPLE IN DEPARTMENT ON AFFAIRS IN AFRICA, AND THEY HAVE

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BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED -- AS HAS DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON."

5. DIGGS PRESS CONFERENCE HELD SHORTLY AFTER UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS HAD BRIEFED HIM AND SEVERAL OTHER CAUCUS MEMBERS.

6. SPOKESMAN, AT SEPT. 2 PRESS BRIEFING, READ FOLLOWING  
STATEMENT TO CORRESPONDENTS: (BEGIN TEXT)

WE HAVE NOTED CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' STATEMENT AND

HAVE SEVERAL COMMENTS:

-- THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO MEET WITH  
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THEREAFTER  
OF A VISIT TO SEVERAL SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES, IS  
TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE  
IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. WE WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM  
CONTINUING THAT EFFORT.

-- U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE REPRESSIVE ACTS OF  
WHITE GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE BEEN MADE  
CRYSTAL CLEAR BY THIS ADMINISTRATION, MOST RECENTLY IN  
THE SECRETARY'S AUGUST 31 SPEECH IN PHILADELPHIA.

-- IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S  
LAST TRIP TO AFRICA CONGRESSMAN DIGGS PUBLICLY URGED  
THE SECRETARY TO VISIT SOUTHERN AFRICA, WITHOUT SETTING  
CONDITIONS FOR THAT VISIT. STATEMENTS LIKE THAT OF  
YESTERDAY WHICH FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE  
PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND FOCUS, INSTEAD, ON NARROW INTERESTS  
DO NOT SERVE THE CAUSE OF EFFECTIVE DISCOURSE. WE MUST  
BE CONCERNED BY STATEMENTS WHICH CAN SERVE TO ENCOURAGE  
INTRANSIGENCE AND A REFUSAL TO COMPROMISE BY BOTH BLACKS  
AND WHITES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE PROCESS OF COMPROMISE  
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS ALREADY AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT  
UNDERTAKING AND SHOULD NOT BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT.

-- EVERY MOVE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS MADE  
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OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST MONTHS IN DEALING WITH THE  
PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS BEEN MADE IN CAREFUL  
CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADERS OF THE BLACK AFRICAN STATES  
MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED. IN THAT REGARD, THREE MISSIONS  
TO AFRICA, ONE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE HIMSELF AND THE  
OTHER TWO BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE APRIL.

-- BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S FIRST TRIP TO AFRICA, HE  
MET TWICE WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS. HE HAS  
SINCE MET WITH BLACK LEADERS AND ADDRESSED TWO MAJOR  
BLACK AUDIENCES -- THE URBAN LEAGUE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES  
INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTERS. FURTHERMORE, THE MOST SENIOR  
OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAVE CONSULTED  
REGULARLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE BLACK CAUCUS AT OUR

INITIATIVE AND AT THEIR REQUEST. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS MET WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS IN CONGRESSMAN DIGGS' OFFICE PRIOR TO THE CAUCUS' PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY.

-- THE RECORD SHOWS THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS SCHAUFELLE HAS MET WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BLACK CAUCUS AND THEIR STAFFS ON FIVE OCCASIONS SINCE APRIL.

PRIOR TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE'S MOST RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA, HE HAD A LONG, PRIVATE MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER OCCASIONS IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. FOR EXAMPLE, CONGRESSMAN ANDREW YOUNG EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OPEN FORUM PANEL.

-- WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN REGULAR COMMUNICATION WITH OR MET MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT, WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. THE SECRETARY HIMSELF HAS TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE  
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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHERE QUESTIONS RELATED TO AFRICA WERE ADDRESSED. ONCE THE SECRETARY HAS RETURNED FROM HIS TRIP, HE AND HIS PRINCIPAL SUB-ORDINATES WILL MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

-- FINALLY, WE REJECT ANY CLAIM THAT THE SECRETARY HAS NEGLECTED "HIS TOP AFRICAN SPECIALISTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE." THE SECRETARY HAS IN FACT BEEN IN CONSTANT CONSULTATION WITH HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. (END TEXT)  
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